

Adjournment Debate

Gazette Part I with March 9 as the deadline for comments. The point raised by the Hon. Member is one in respect of which comments have been received and consultation has taken place with interested segments of the beef industry.

[Translation]

The Hon. Member mentioned one major exporter of beef carcasses, but there are many others. Exports must be both facilitated and controlled, to ensure that our trading partners always receive the quality product they expect. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) has always been concerned about developing exports, and he will do everything in his power to ensure that this particular export sector is protected and monitored by means of the relevant regulations.

Mr. Speaker, the question concerns the amount of control and regulatory action to be applied. The colour of the ink used to identify quality carcasses is another factor.

In accordance with the proposed regulation, the five main sections of carcasses for export will be marked with a brown, one-inch square stamp. Furthermore, the entire side of Grade A carcasses will be marked with a roller, in red. These are the usual procedures applying to all Grade A carcasses. The proposed regulation provides for exceptions to this type of grading in very specific cases, namely, for the export market.

I believe the regulation be flexible enough to allow both for effective quality control of the product and for some leeway when shipping carcasses to domestic and foreign markets. As for the situation with the United States to which the Hon. Member was referring, what we have here is a difference in colour coding: they identify their superior quality products with blue ink, while we do with red. Of course, U.S. dealers who pay high prices for imported products do not want to see a red stamp, since to them, it is an indication of a lesser quality product. Consequently, the exemptions provided under the regulation would apply to red roller marking, while there would still be the five stamps to indicate quality control.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that once it is adopted, this regulation will provide the beef sector with one of the best grading systems in the world and allow us to continue the kind of trade relations in the North American beef sector that we have had for many years.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

At 6.30 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.
